

based inspection system for the Animal Care program, targeting investigative and enforcement resources on bad actors.

Throughout his career, Dr. DeHaven has exhibited creativity and commitment to ensuring animal welfare and promoting U.S. agriculture. This Congress and this Nation is grateful.

HONORING MESQUITE'S NEWEST TEACHERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District's new teachers for the 2007–2008 school year.

An excellent education is fundamental to the growth and development of our Nation's youth. With over 35,000 children in the Mesquite community, it is imperative that we continue to acquire high-quality teachers.

As a father of 2 young children, I understand and appreciate the impact teachers have on the lives of our children. We are gratefully indebted to them for enriching the lives of our students. Our teachers can make a difference in the lives of each and every child they teach.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mesquite's newest teachers in the United States House of Representatives.

BELATED THANK YOU TO MERCHANT MARINERS OF WWII ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I have reservations regarding H.R. 23, as amended, the Belated Thank You to Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. I believe that H.R. 23, as amended, sets a poor precedent by awarding a \$1,000 monthly payment to World War II Merchant Mariners. The authorization described in the bill has no requirement for the Merchant Mariner to have a disability or suffer from financial hardship. Currently, the only veterans authorized to receive a service pension are Medal of Honor recipients.

Whether or not to grant an unprecedented new service pension to World War II Merchant Mariners is not a question of bravery or contributions to victory over the Axis in 1945. Those questions have long been settled to the resounding credit of the mariners who braved unspeakable dangers to transport cargo that kept the Atlantic Alliance alive and fighting.

The Merchant Mariners serving during World War II were given veteran status under a system established by Congress in the G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977, Public Law 95–202. This process determined if civilian groups of World War II, like Merchant Mariners, should receive veteran status based on their service during the war. As of 1992, all World War II Merchant Mariners who served from the beginning of the war through victory in Japan

day received full veteran status under this system. This means that all of these World War II Merchant Mariners are veterans and qualify for all VA benefits and services including healthcare and old age pension.

An objective and carefully researched report on the contributions of Merchant Mariners during World War II and post-war benefits for which they were eligible can be found in the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, Veterans Benefits: Merchant Seamen, May 8, 2007 (Order Code: RL33992: <http://www.congress.gov/erp/r1/pdf/RL33992.pdf>), by Christine Scott and Douglas Reid Weimer.

Thirty other groups that provided military-related service to the U.S. in World War II have received veteran status in the same manner as the Merchant Mariners. However, this bill ignores their service to the nation; it focuses only on the service provided by Merchant Mariners who served during that same period. These groups include the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the famed Flying Tigers and many others who gained their status decades after their service. They served loyally, selflessly, and courageously. Their service contributed directly to victory in 1945. Yet this bill does nothing for them.

During the full Committee markup of H.R. 23, I offered an amendment that would include these groups, which was defeated by voice vote. I attach a list of the other veteran groups that received veteran status under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (P.L. 78–346) [Attachment A].

I also find the funding mechanism for this bill to be of concern. When this bill was introduced in previous Congresses, it was determined that because the benefit was an entitlement, it was subject to PAYGO offset requirements. However, the current bill uses a compensation fund to turn this entitlement into discretionary spending. This side-steps budget rules and places an unnecessary burden on the Appropriations Committees.

There is no current appropriations measure that would fund this benefit. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which is unable to identify the necessary PAYGO offsets to fund this benefit, is simply passing the buck to the Appropriations Committee. I do not believe this is a fiscally sound way to legislate. Further, if insufficient funds were to be appropriated, only some Merchant Mariners would receive the benefit, while others would not.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), in opposing this bill said, "If these measures were approved, the annuity payable for even a single month of Merchant Marine service in World War II would significantly exceed those payable to thousands of World War II combat veterans who served far longer and suffered significant combat disabilities . . ." MOAA also wrote, "A World War II military veteran who served 20 years and retired in 1955 at the grade of E–5 [sergeant] is entitled to a military retired pay check of only \$900 today."

I believe this legislation, though well-meaning, breaches precedent of pension policy law and does not make the best use of taxpayer dollars. I fear that it will have unintended consequences for future Congresses.

ATTACHMENT A

RECOGNIZED GROUPS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 95–202

1. 8 Mar 79—Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WWII).

2. 22 Jan 81—Civilian Employees, Pacific Naval Air Bases, Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Wake Island during WWII.

3. 17 Jul 81—Male Civilian Ferry Pilots (WWII).

4. 7 Apr 82—Wake Island defenders from Guam (WWII).

5. 27 Dec 82—Civilian Personnel Assigned to the Secret Intelligence Element of the OSS (WWII).

6. 10 May 83—Guam Combat Patrol (WWII).

7. 7 Feb 84—Quartermaster Corps Keswick Crew on Corregidor (WWII).

8. 7 Feb 84—U.S. Civilian Volunteers Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Bataan (WWII).

9. 18 Oct 85—U.S. Merchant Seamen Who Served on Blockships in Support of Operation Mulberry (WWII).

10. 19 Jan 88—American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the Period of Armed Conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

11. 2 Aug 88—Civilian U.S. Navy IFF Technicians Who Served in the Combat Areas of the Pacific during World War II (December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945) (WWII).

12. 30 Aug 90—U.S. Civilians of the American Field Service (AFS) Who Served Overseas Under U.S. Armies and U.S. Army Groups in World War II During the Period December 7, 1941, through May 8, 1945 (WWII).

13. 5 Oct 90—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of American Airlines Who Served Overseas as a result of American Airlines' Contract with Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

14. 8 Apr 91—Civilian Crewmen of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who performed their service in areas of immediate military hazard while conducting cooperative operations with and for the United States Armed Forces within a time frame of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

15. 3 May 91—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Who Served During the Period December 7, 1941, to July 18, 1942 (WWII).

16. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of United Air Lines (UAL), Who Served Overseas as a Result of UAL's Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

17. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA's Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

18. 14 May 92—American Field Service (AFS) who served honorably on flights with the 3d Combat Cargo Squadron, Army Air Forces, December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (Addendum to August 30, 1990 AFS (WWII) SAF decision) (WWII).

19. 14 May 92—Addendum which adds three ships (Oceanographer, Hydrographer, and Pathfinder) to the April 8, 1991, USCGS SAF decision (WWII).

20. 29 Jun 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation (Convair Division), Who Served Overseas as a Result of a Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period (WWII) U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support during the Period December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

21. 29 Jun 92—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Guard, Eritrea Service Command during the Period June 21, 1942 to March 31, 1943 (WWII).

22. 29 Jun 92—Addendum for “oceangoing” merchant marine (includes U.S. Army Corps Engineers, U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, or U.S. Army Air Force) (WWII).

23. 17 Jul 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Pan American World Airways and its subsidiaries and affiliates, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Pan American’s Contract with the Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

24. 4 Nov. 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Eastern Air Lines—Military Transport Division (EAL—MTD), Who Served Overseas as a Result of EAL—MTD’s Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

25. 13 Dec 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northwest Airlines, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Northwest Airline’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

26. 13 Dec 93—U.S. Civilian Female Employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps While Serving in the Defense of Bataan and Corregidor During the Period January 2, 1942, to June 12, 1945 (WWII).

27. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing as a result of a contract with Air Transport Command during the period February 26, 1942, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

28. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division, who served overseas as a result of Northeast Airlines’ contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 7, 1941, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

29. 27 Aug 99—Operational Analysis Group of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, who served overseas from December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945.

30. 30 Sep 99—Three scout/guides assisting U.S. Marines in offensive operations in Northern Mariana Islands from June 19, 1944, through September 2, 1945.

31. 30 Sep 99—Approximately 50 Chamorro and Carolinian policemen, who received military training and under the command of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion, to accompany U.S. Marines in combat patrol activity from August 19, 1945, to September 2, 1945.

32. 21 Feb 03—Reconsideration of “Pursers” as part of the Flight Crews of U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY KENT KEYSER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize 30 years of public service by my Chief of Staff, Kent Keyser. Kent started as one of my first 2 summer interns in 1977. He then volunteered in my Huntington office for several weeks before I

offered him a part time position, while he was attending Marshall University. He worked in Huntington doing constituent services, before becoming my District Representative and eventually my Federal Programs Coordinator. In December 1988 he came to Washington as my Chief of Staff. He continues to assist my constituents of the Third Congressional District with the highest caliber of service. His trustworthiness and dependability over the years have guided me and my staff through many challenges. Kent is well known for greeting members of my Washington staff with the question “What have you done for West Virginia today?” His loyalty to our State and my staff and me is obvious to everyone who knows him. One of the historical figures he most admires is Thomas Jefferson, whom he likes to quote, “All things are changeable except the inalienable rights of man.” And truly he is helping me work to change the Third District of West Virginia for the better. Kent is an asset to my staff, and also a personal friend. I want to publicly thank him for his service and tireless efforts on behalf of West Virginians. From Kenova, WV to the Nation’s Capitol, while a long distance, he has never journeyed far from his upbringing near the banks of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. On behalf of the people in the great State of West Virginia we thank you for 3 decades of giving of your self to our State and Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 120TH BIRTHDAY AND LIFE OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of the late Marcus Mosiah Garvey and to acknowledge the 120th anniversary of the day of his birth, August 17, 1887, a day which will be celebrated later this month in the United States, the Caribbean, and throughout the diaspora.

One hundred and twenty years ago, on August 17, the revolutionary, Marcus Mosiah Garvey was born in Saint Ann Bay, Jamaica. His father was a mason and his mother was a farmer. Although his dad used his hands to make a living, he loved literature and created a large library. The library became the initial information source that cultivated young Marcus’s love of reading and hunger for knowledge.

At approximately the age of 14, he left Saint Ann’s Bay and became an apprentice. He held the positions of Master Printer and Foreman at P.A. Benjamin Printery. In a short time, he was elected to serve as vice president of the Kingston Union, participated in a printers strike, was fired from his job, created The Watchman newspaper and found a new job at the Government Printing Office. All of this advocacy on behalf of the rights of workers prepared him for becoming an outspoken leader against oppression and an advocate for freedom and self determination.

From 1910 to 1913, he traveled throughout Central America and London. During this time, he attended Birkbeck College and held jobs as a timekeeper and newspaper editor. While in

London, he spoke at Hyde’s Park Speaker’s Corner, where his public speaking skills, developed in Jamaica, were honed before ever larger audiences.

He returned to Jamaica in 1914 and founded the Universal Negro Improvement and Conservation Association and African Communities League. The mission of the organization was to “unite all people of African ancestry of the world to one great body to establish a country and absolute government of their own.”

He came to the United States and established himself in Harlem, New York, to share the mission of the organization in 1916. Initially he spoke out on the street corners of New York and later went on a nationwide speaking tour. The late Adam Clayton Powell declared that Garvey “awakened a race consciousness that made Harlem felt around the world.” Through speaking and the newspaper he created, the Negro World, membership in the organization grew to an amazing two million plus. To further support the ideas of the organization’s mission, he incorporated a shipping line, Black Star Lines to transport goods and people of African descent back to Africa. An investigation of the organization and Black Star Lines led to a wrongful indictment and arrest of Mr. Garvey. This investigation marked the beginning of an effort to destroy him and the organization.

In 1919, he was shot by a man who committed suicide immediately after the shooting. In that same year, he and others were unjustly investigated by the FBI and charged with mail fraud in connection with Black Star Lines. Only Mr. Garvey was found guilty and received a sentence of five years. He adamantly proclaimed his innocence and many believed then and now that he was set up for political reasons. He served time in Atlanta and his sentence was commuted by President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Upon his release, he was deported to Jamaica.

He continued to serve as a revolutionary and political activist by establishing Jamaica’s first political party, the People’s Political Party, serving as the Councillor for the Allman Town Division of the Capitol City, Kingston. In 1935, he moved to London and worked on issues that involved Ethiopia and set up a school to train leaders for the organization he founded. In 1940, he passed away from a stroke after reading a false obituary of himself published in the Chicago Defender.

Mr. Garvey was a bold visionary. His idea and commitment to move people of African descent back to Africa and establish a government of self-determination are still inspiring today. Since he was investigated and convicted, his vision and efforts to mobilize people of African descent to return to Africa did not materialize. President Coolidge’s action could be interpreted as an admission of wrongdoing by the U.S. government. However, his name has not been formally cleared.

On August 17, 2007, people will celebrate the birth and life of Mr. Garvey. I applaud and encourage people all over the world to celebrate the life of such a great man. I also urge my colleagues to support my bill, H. Con. Res. 24, which calls for expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted.